

Message Text

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67

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 ACDA-19 DRC-01 (ISO) W

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R 221430Z JUL 74

FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2899

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USUN NEW YORK 003

C O N F I D E N T I A L CASABLANCA 609

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, MO, SS, IR, PK, IN, CH

SUBJECT: UNFP/CASABLANCA: ISOLATION IN OPPOSITION

ON SHARAN ISSUE

1. SUMMARY: UNFP/CASABLANCA-UMT LEADERSHIP STRONGLY SUPPORT QUOTE RECUPERATION MOROCCAN TERRITORY HELD BY SPAIN UNQUOTE BUT DISAGREE WITH CURRENT GOM POLICY. ABDALLAH IBRAHIM WAS ASKED BY FOMIN LARAKI TO TRAVEL ABROAD TO EXPLAIN MOROCCAN POSITION BUT IBRAHIM REFUSED. UNFP/CASA LEADERS ACUTELY AWARE OF THEIR ISOLATION ON THIS ISSUE BUT BELIEVE THEY ARE ONLY OPPOSITION LEFT IN MOROCCO. THEY BELIEVE ARMED CLASH WITH SPAIN IS INEVITABLE, AND THAT ALGERIAN TROOPS IN TINDOUF AREA MAY ALSO BE THREAT FOR MOROCCO. END SUMMARY.

2. LABOFF HAD WIDE-RANGING SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS OVER WEEKEND WITH SECGEN UNION MAROCAINE DU TRAVIL MAHJOUB BEN
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SEDDIK AND UMT DEPSEC GEN MOHAMED ABDERRAZAK. BEN SEDDIK

AND UMT ARE PRINCIPAL SUPPORTERS OF ABDALLAH IMBRAHIM AND SO-CALLED CASABLANCA FACTION OF UNFP. VIEWS OF TWO LEADERS ARE SURPRISINGLY SIMILAR AND CLEARLY ARE THOSE OF IBRAHIM AS WELL. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY THEIR POSITION.

3. UNFP/CASA HAS ALWAYS URGED RECUPERATION MOROCCAN TERRITORY QUOTE OCCUPIED BY SPAIN UNQUOTE. THIS IS A NATIONAL GOAL THAT NO MOROCCAN CAN FAIL TO SUPPORT. COMMENT: THIS IS NO LINE: BEN SEDDIK AND ABDERRAZAK STRONGLY BELIEVE IN WHAT THEY TERM TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF MOROCCO.

4. FORMIN LARAKI PAID UNANNOUNCED VISIT ON IBRAHIM IN CASABLANCA ON JULY 14 LARAKI ASKED IBRAHIM TO UNDERTAKE TRIP ABROAD TO PRESENT MOROCCAN CASE ON SPANISH SAHARA AND TOLD IBRAHIM THAT BOUABID, AHERDANE AND OTHER POLITICAL LEADERS WOULD BE MAKING SIMILAR TRIPS. ALTHOUGH LARAKI DID NOT MENTION ANY SPECIFIC COUNTRIES TO BE VISITED, UNFP/CASA LEADERS BELIEVE HE MAY HAVE WANTED IBRAHIM TO GO TO U.S. COMMENT: UNFP/CASA LEADERS BELIEVE THEY DO IN FACT HAVE SOME SORT SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH USG AND THAT GOM IS AWARE OF THIS.

5. IBRAHIM TOLD LARAKI THAT THIS IS NOT TIME TO RAISE SAHARA ISSUE. MOROCCO IS DIPLOMATICALLY ISOLATED, HE SAID. THE U.S. IS NEUTRAL BUT IF PUSHED WILL HAVE TO SUPPORT SPAIN WHERE IT HAS IMPORTANT BASES. THE USSR WILL BACK ALGERIA, AS WILL MAURETANIA. OTHER ARAB STATES HAVE IMPORTANT ECONOMIC INTERESTS WITH SPAIN AND WILL GIVE ONLY LUKEWARM SUPPORT TO MOROCCO. IN ADDITIONAN SAID IBRAHIM, ANY DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN SHOULD NOT IGNORE CEUTA AND MELILLA. FOR THESE REASONS IBRAHIM REFUSED TO UNDERTAKE TRIP PROPOSED BY LARAKI AND WAS EXCLUDED FROM MEETING OF KING, CABINET AND POLITICAL LEADERS HELD TWO DAYS LATER.

6. UNFP/CASA LEADERS ARE FULLY AWARE OF THEIR SELF-IMPOSED POLITICAL ISOLATION AND WEAKNESS. IN WORDS OF BEN SEDDIK, QUOTE WE ARE GOING THROUGH A VERY DIFFICULT QUARTER HOUR, BUT THE DAY IS NOT OVER YET UNQUOTE. LEADERS HERE ARE BITTERLY CONTEMPTUOUS OF OTHER PARTIES WHOM THEY ACCUSE OF REPRESENTING NO ONE AND OF HAVING SOLD

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OUT TO KING. SEVEREST CRITICISM, HOWEVER, RESERVED FOR BOUABID, WHO IS ACCUSED OF HAVING LOST CONFIDENCE OF UNFP EXILES AND OF SEEKING CABINET-LEVEL POST IN CABINET ROYAL.

7. BOTH BEN SEDDIK AND ABDERRAZAK BELIEVE ARMED CONFLICT BETWEEN SPAIN AND MOROCCO IS LIKELY. ABDERRAZAK SAYS HE WAS TOLD BY FRIEND IN GOM THAT ALGERIANS NOW HAVE FIFTEEN TO TWENTY THOUSAND TROOPS IN TINDOUF AREA AND THAT

THIS REPRESENTS ANOTHER DANGER FOR MOROCCO.

8. COMMENT: THIS IS ONE OF BLEAKEST MOMENTS IN YEARS
FOR UMT AND ITS UNFP ALLIES. THEY ARE ALONE, DISORGANIZED,
OUTMANEUVERED AND BROKE. STILL, THEY TAKE A CERTAIN MASO-
CHISTIC SATISFACTION IN BEING, IN THEIR WORDS, THE
REMNANTS OF THE MOROCCAN OPPOSITION.
BRUBECK

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